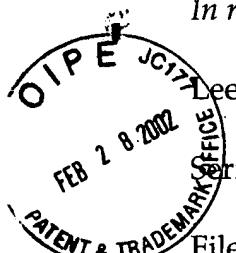


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A Docket: 53394.000586  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re Patent Application of: )  
Lee W. JOHNSTON et al. )  
Serial No.: 09/997,233 )  
Filed: November 30, 2001 )  
 ) Art Unit: 3761  
 ) Examiner: Unassigned

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For: IMPROVED CONVECTION OF ABSORBENT  
CORES PROVIDING ENHANCED  
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the references listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A. Copies of the references listed are also enclosed.

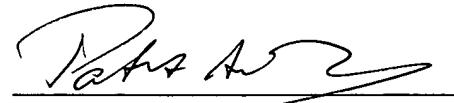
Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the references cited on the PTO/SB/08A and that the Examiner indicate that the references have been considered in this application by returning a copy of the Form PTO/SB/08A with the Examiner's initials in the left column per MPEP 609.

Applicants' submission of this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) shall not be construed as an admission that the cited references are prior art to the present invention, or that the cited references qualify as printed publications. The submission of this IDS also shall not be construed as a representation that a prior art search has been performed.

This IDS is submitted prior to the issuance of a first Office Action on the merits; therefore, it is believed that no fees are required in connection therewith. If any fees are necessitated by the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, please charge the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/28/02

  
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